

**MEETING OF THE BOARD HELD IN PUBLIC
MINUTES**

TUESDAY, JANUARY 10, 2023

Board:

L. Trenaman, Chair
D. Lang, Vice-Chair (*via video conference*)
M. J. Blackmore
J. Bremner
S. Chew
K. Etheridge (*via video conference*)
S. Nazaroff
M. Shunter

District Staff:

T. Smillie, Superintendent
J. Glaudemans, Secretary-Treasurer
B. Eaton, District Director of Instruction – Innovative Learning
G. Higginbottom, District Principal – Aboriginal Education
D. Holitzki, Director of Instruction – Equity, Inclusion & Diversity
C. Kerr, Director of Operations (*via video conference*)
N. Ross, District Principal – Early Years & Inclusive Education
C. Singh, Director of Human Resources
S. Bruskowski, Executive Assistant

Student Trustees:

R. Fisher, L.V. Rogers
P. Gatto-Beebe, Kootenay River Secondary
N. Holland, Mount Sentinel
N. Kreuzer, Salmo Secondary
E. Moore, Kootenay River Secondary
A. Stuart, Salmo Secondary
A. Thomson, L.V. Rogers

Guests:

Nil

Regrets:

A. Gribbin

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:02 PM.

The Chair expressed her sincere sympathy and condolences to the families and the Nelson Police Department of the two police officers involved in the tragic avalanche incident in Kaslo.

2. Acknowledgement of Aboriginal Territory

3. Changes to the Proposed Agenda

Item 12 C "Approve Policies 620 and 621 for Field Testing" was added to the agenda.

4. Adoption of Agenda

UPON a motion duly made and seconded it was **RESOLVED:**

22/23-022

THAT the Agenda for this January 10, 2023 meeting **BE ADOPTED**, as amended.

The motion passed unanimously.

5. Receiving Presentations – Nil
6. Comments or Questions from the Public regarding items on this Agenda – Nil
7. Consent Package – Nil
8. Adoption of Minutes

The Superintendent added a paragraph to item 11B to the minutes of the December 13 meeting where an amendment was defeated:

“The amended resolution was duly moved and seconded

*THAT Policy 131: Trustee Indemnity be updated to reflect that Trustee remuneration will be calculated for each July 1st based on the median Trustee remuneration in the province, BC CPI to the year prior **BE APPROVED.***

*The amendment to the resolution was **defeated** with 7 opposed.”*

UPON a motion duly made and seconded it was **RESOLVED:**

22/23-023

THAT the minutes from the December 13, 2022 Meeting of the Board held in public **BE ADOPTED** as amended.

The motion carried unanimously.

9. Future and Action Item Tracking
10. Education

A. Strategic Plan Public Engagement

The Superintendent outlined the process around the redevelopment of the Strategic Plan. She provided an overview of the Public Engagement Platform and showed the ways allowing for members of the public to get engaged and provide feedback. The SD8 Strategic Plan Consultation Schedule provides a timeline for the process.

It was discussed to ensure engagement through local newspapers and media.

B. Aboriginal Education Continuous Learning Report

The District Principal – Aboriginal Education, G. Higginbottom, provided a report on Aboriginal Education in the district. The Aboriginal Education Continuous Learning Report outlined specific actions for 2022-2023.

The Trustees expressed their gratitude for the successes that have been made regarding literacy and graduation rates.

C. Indigenous Graduation Credit

The District Principal – Aboriginal Education, G. Higginbottom, provided details of the provincial Indigenous Graduation Credit Requirement, that will be coming up in the school year 2023-2024. Students are required to successfully complete at least 4 credits in Indigenous-focused coursework. In School District 8 (Kootenay Lake) all Secondary Schools will provide one or more courses as of next school year.

D. Kindergarten Registration 2023-2024

The District Principal – Early Years & Inclusive Education, N. Ross, provided information on Kindergarten Registration 2023-2024. The district advertises on the SD8 website as well as on all elementary school websites and in local media, the registration process is now in progress. In

spring each Kindergarten holds an event and provides opportunities for children and families get excited for kindergarten.

E. K-12 Reporting Policy Implementation 2023-2024

The District Principal – Early Years & Inclusive Education, N. Ross, and the Director of Instruction – Equity, Inclusion & Diversity, D. Holitzki, shared key aspects of the implementation of the new K-12 Reporting Policy effective July 01, 2023. The district will continue to use the MyEdBC platform for reporting.

F. School Completion 2021-2022

The District Director of Instruction – Innovative Learning, B. Eaton, provided information on school completion rates. Both the first-time graduation rates and the 6-year completion rates, showed significant increases for all students as well as for Indigenous students and students with diverse needs.

11. Operations and Finance

A. Budget Development Process and Schedule 2023-2024

The Secretary-Treasurer outlined the budget development process and discussed the budget calendar. He encouraged everyone to participate in the process which is interwoven with the strategic plan development. The development of a multi-year budget that will be forthcoming in the future. The Secretary-Treasurer assured that Trustees will receive updated draft budgets ahead of meetings so they can make informed decisions.

UPON a motion duly made and seconded it was **RESOLVED:**

22/23-024

THAT the budget development process and schedule 2023-2024 **BE APPROVED.**

The motion carried unanimously.

B. Statement of Financial Information (SOFI)

The Secretary-Treasurer provided information in the Statement of Financial Information as provided on the school district's website.

C. School Fees Report

The Secretary-Treasurer provided an update on the School Fees Report. The report states that the school fees charged are in compliance with the BC School Act and regulations. The district takes financial hardships into consideration: no student has been denied an opportunity to participate in a course or activity because they did not pay the fees. A proposal for the 2023-2024 school year fees will go to the Board in April 2023.

In response to Trustees' questions, the Secretary-Treasurer answered that the report was created by an external contractor at a cost of CAD 3,000 plus tax. With the information provided it is money well spent.

12. Governance and Policy

A. Policy Approval

The Superintendent highlighted the changes that were proposed in the policies.

The Date of amendment will be updated to the date of approval.

The Chair pointed out that the title for policy 130 needs to be changed to Trustees Professional and Ethical Conduct.

There was further discussion on Policy 130. The proposed motion was divided as follows:

- Proposed motion: THAT policy 130 BE APPROVED.
- Proposed motion: THAT policies 124, 131, 150, 160, and 190 BE APPROVED.

One Trustee pointed out that “Committees of the Whole” no longer exist, and the wording needs to be changed to “Partner Advisory Committee” in section 3.2 of Policy 130.

One Trustee moved an amendment to replace “criticizing” with “undermining” in section B of the Code of Ethics that outlines that “Trustees will [...] refrain from criticizing Board decisions”.

After some discussion about the amendment

UPON an amendment duly made and seconded it was **RESOLVED:**

THAT the wording “criticizing” **BE AMENDED** to “undermining” in the Code of Ethics outlines in Policy 130.

The amendment was defeated with 5 opposed. The Board then discussed the main motion.

UPON a motion duly made and seconded it was **RESOLVED:**

22/23-025

THAT policy 130 **BE APPROVED**.

Motion carried with 2 opposed.

The Superintendent went through proposed changes in the other policies.

Amendments to policy 150:

- In bullet point 2 of Policy 150 “council” needs to be replaced with “provincial council”. Furthermore, “conferences” needs to be replaced with “BCPSEA AGM and symposium”.
- Section 4 of policy 150 should reflect the Secretary-Treasurer and the Superintendent are encouraged to attend the BCPSEA AGM, the BCPSEA Academy, as well as KBB meetings and conventions.

Amendments to policy 160:

- The word “guidelines” needs to be replaced with “procedures” in policy 160. This change applies to all other policies as well.

UPON a motion duly made and seconded it was **RESOLVED:**

22/23-026

THAT policies 124, 131, 150, 160, and 190 **BE APPROVED**.

Motion carried unanimously.

B. Rescind Policy

The Superintendent outlined that Policy 251 is no longer aligned with current legislation and, therefore, needs to be rescinded.

UPON a motion duly made and seconded it was **RESOLVED:**

22/23-027

THAT policy 251 **BE RESCINDED**.

Motion carried Unanimously.

C. Approve Policies 620 and 621 for Field Testing

UPON a motion duly made and seconded it was **RESOLVED:**

22/23-028

THAT policies 620 and 621 **BE APPROVED** for field testing.

Motion carried unanimously.

D. Board Meeting Locations

The Board agreed upon the Chair's suggestion to include the discussion around Board meeting locations to when the Board Schedule for the next school year is created.

E. Trustee Classroom Visits

The Trustees discussed the motion that was brought forward regarding Trustee classroom visits.

Due to the advanced time, the duration of the meeting had to be extended.

UPON a motion duly made and seconded it was **RESOLVED** at 7:57 PM: 22/23-029

THAT the extending the meeting by 30 minutes **BE APPROVED**.

Motion carried with 1 opposed.

Trustees agreed upon resolving the motion and then refer the item to a working session at a later date.

UPON a motion duly made and seconded it was **RESOLVED**: 22/23-030

THAT Trustees are encouraged to visit classrooms as volunteers to keep in touch with the grassroots of our school district in order to aid the best possible governance of our district. This can occur only when invited by a teacher and after notification of the school administration.

The motion was defeated with 6 opposed.

13. Human Resources – Nil

14. Trustee Reports

A. Trustees – Nil

B. Chair – Nil

C. BCSTA – Nil

D. BCPSEA – Nil

E. RDCK – Nil

F. Other Committees – Nil

G. Student Trustees

Student Trustee Gatto-Beebe reported that Leadership classes have worked hard to raise school spirit. Student council was disbanded until they have a teacher advisor and a constitution.

Student Trustee Holland stated that the Green Team had its first meeting the previous week. The Mt. Sentinel group "from the heart" is working on the project "from the heart to the roots".

Trustee Fisher provided information on the success of the lunch program which has allowed for donations to the foodbank.

15. Comments or Questions from the Public

A member of the public inquired about draft policy 430 regarding School Fees. The Superintendent explained the process for policy creation. The Policy review committee decides whether a proposed change in policy is brought to the Board.

16. Meeting Schedule and Reminders

A. Board Meetings

The next Meeting of the Board held in the public is scheduled for February 14, 2023.

17. Adjournment of Meeting

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 PM.


Board Chair


Secretary-Treasurer